

Sinclair Broadcasting is not serving the public interest in its decision to compel its stations to air an unbalanced documentary on Senator John Kerry just days before the presidential election.

Use of the public airways is granted to Sinclair Broadcasting on the provision that they serve the public interest. This includes the obligation to provide equal time to opposing political candidates. Clearly, a documentary film that is dedicated to a point of view regarding one political candidate is exactly what the federal election law equal time statute was designed to address. Sinclair Broadcasting is plainly flouting this law and its intent.

I am asking the FCC, in their capacity as regulator of the public airwaves, to preempt Sinclair's showing of a documentary film on any presidential candidate until that company has made specific provisions for equal time to all presidential candidates.

Furthermore, I am asking the FCC to review the qualification of Sinclair Broadcasting regarding their license to broadcast on the public airwaves, should that company fail to provide equal time to all candidates, and thus fail to serve the public interest.

Sincerely,  
Richard Tarrel